

**WARREN
MAGAZINE**

ALL NEW STORIES AND ART! PLUS COLOR!



JUNE 1974

VAMPIRELLA

58885-6

PDC

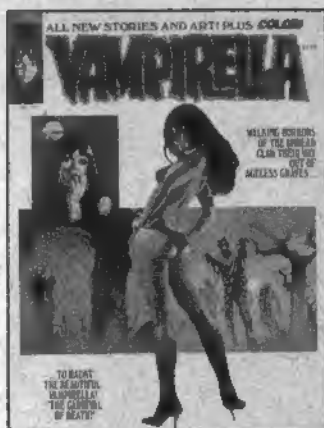
\$1.00



**WALKING HORRORS
OF THE UNDEAD
CLAW THEIR WAY
OUT OF
AGELESS GRAVES...**



**...TO HAUNT
THE BEAUTIFUL
VAMPIRELLA!
"THE CARNIVAL
OF DEATH!"**



OUR COVER:
Lightning may not strike twice, but our lovely lady from Drakulon does in this double serving of Vampi and the craftsmanship of popular cover artist Enrich.

**Editor-In-Chief
& Publisher
JAMES WARREN**

**Senior Editor
W.B. DuBAY**

**Editor
ARCHIE GOODWIN**

**Art Production
W.R. MOHALLEY**

**Circulation Director
AB SIDEMAN**

**Marketing Director
JEFF ROVIN**

**Cover
ENRICH**

**Artists This Issue
JOSE BEA
JOSE GONZALEZ
JEFF JONES
ESTEBAN MAROTO
FELIX MAS
RAMON TORRENTS**

**Writers This Issue
JOHN JACOBSON
FLAXMAN LOEW
DOUG MOENCH
FRED OTT
STEVE SKEATES
BERNI WRIGHTSON**

VAMPIRELLA NO. 34, PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT FEBRUARY, JULY AND DECEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. EDITORIAL, SUBSCRIPTION & BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32ND STREET, N.Y. 10016. TELEPHONE: (212) 683-6050.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 9 ISSUES FOR \$10.00 IN THE U.S.; CANADA AND ELSEWHERE \$12.00.

SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. ENTIRE CONTENTS COPYRIGHTED © 1974 BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD UNDER THE UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION, AND THE PAN AMERICAN COPYRIGHT CONVENTION. VAMPIRELLA IS REGISTERED U.S. PATENT OFFICE. MARCA REGISTRADA, MARQUE DEPOSEE. NOTHING MAY BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE PUBLISHER.

SORRY, NO RESPONSIBILITY CAN BE ACCEPTED FOR UNSOLICITED MATERIAL. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

VAMPIRELLA

CONTENTS

**ISSUE NO. 34
JUNE 1974**

4 VAMPI'S SCARLETT LETTERS
"Whatever happened to Adam Van Helsing and his father, Conrad?" is the question asked by readers, and our gal, Vampirella, has a hint!

6 VAMPI'S VAULT Object of our frenzied focus this issue is Martin Salvador, an artist adept at fusing fantasy and realism. Also on display: Fanzines and an Editorial!

7 CARNIVAL OF DEATH A masked ball in Venice is the setting! Vampi, Pendy, and a malevolent movie mogul are all on the guest list... But so is horror from the grave!

19 MIRANDA What weird obsession drives a man to offer one million dollars to marry this girl long secluded from all outsiders? What terrible secret makes her Aunt refuse?

25 FROM SPAIN OF LEGEND In which we meet a newcomer to our line-up of demoniac damsels... Fleur! A beautiful witch pitting her powers against a mad inquisitor!

35 BLACK AND WHITE VACUUM A mind-bending pursuit into terror and cosmic insanity graces our color section, as does the special artistry of Esteban Maroto!

43 RECURRENCE Murdering her husband and covering the crime was simple... Then the nightmares came, haunting her over and over! But were they nightmares... or something else?

52 COLD CUTS Snow blankets the woods, but its drifting whiteness cannot cover the blood spilled by a murderer, nor prevent the victim from honoring a promise to his bride!

CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

VAMPIRELLA

WE ARE IN
VENICE...

VENICE, TIMELESS
CITY OF THE DOGES,
QUEEN OF THE ADRIATIC,
A VERITABLE CRADLE OF
WESTERN CIVILIZATION.

VENICE A TORTUOUS MEDLEY OF CARVED STONE, BLOWN GLASS,
SAINTS' BONES, TITIANS, TINTORETTOS, BELLINIS, TIEPOLOS, MEMORIES,
DREAMS...ALL PERCHED UPON THE UNCOUNTED BILLIONS OF **ROTTING**
STAKES THAT CARRY THE TIMELESS CITY, INEXORABLY, INTO THE MUD
ON WHICH IT WAS RAISED.

TO VENICE WE FOLLOW THE **DELICIOUS DRAKULONNE**, SHE WITH HER OFF-BEAT COMPANION AND
AND CONFIDANT, PENDRAGON, IS BEING BROUGHT, BY THE FATE THAT SHAPES ALL OUR ENDS, TO A
GRIM CONFRONTATION AT...

THE CARNIVAL OF DEATH!

AND WHO I
WONDER, OWNS
THAT PARTICULARLY
UNSANITARY-LOOKING
HUNK OF REAL
ESTATE?

I CAN ONLY GUESS
PENDY, I SENSE THE
PRESENCE OF A
TERRIBLE **SADNESS!**
THE VERY STONES OF
THAT PALACE CRY
OUT A **MILLION**
UNFULFILLED
DESIRES!



THE BUILDING THAT HAS BRIEFLY CAUGHT THE PASSING ATTENTION OF VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON IS THE **PALAZZO UMBERTO**, RESIDENCE OF THE COUNTS UMBERTO SINCE THEY BUILT IT IN THE 16TH CENTURY. TIME HAS DEALT HARDLY WITH THE PALAZZO: THE STINKING WATERS OF THE GRAND CANAL HAVE TAKEN OVER THE GROUND FLOOR, AND THE TIEPOLO CEILING IN THE GREAT BALLROOM MAKES WHAT SHIFT IT CAN TO KEEP OUT THE RAIN.



IT SEEMS SO LONG SINCE WE ENTERTAINED. I THINK, MY DEAR, THAT WE MUST GIVE A BALL.

OH, PAPA! HOW DIVINE! A MASKED BALL... A CARNIVAL!

WITH MUCH PAINFUL SEARCHING OF MEMORIES, THEY BUILD THE GUEST LIST...



LET ME SEE... MMMM... WE MUST NOT FORGET THE PRINCIPESSA DI POZZI.

OH, YES. THE PRINCIPESSA! SHE IS SO SMART! SO GAY!

IT IS THE SAME TALE FOR THE REST OF THE GUEST LIST. THE UMBERTOS ARE LIVING IN THE PAST. THEIR PROPOSED GUESTS ARE ALL DEAD. COME THE NIGHT OF THE CARNIVAL, THEY WAIT IN VAIN FOR THE SOUND OF ARRIVING GONDOLAS.

NINE O'CLOCK AND NOT A SOUL!

I COULD CRY WITH VEXATION AND DISAPPOINTMENT! HOW SHALL WE BREAK THE NEWS TO POOR MAMA?



THIS DECISION BY THE COUNT IS TAKING PLACE SOME WEEKS BEFORE VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON COME TO VENICE.

I SHALL SING, OF COURSE. A RECITAL OF **BEL CANTO**, TO MY OWN ACCOMPANIMENT ON THE PIANOFORTE. I SHALL BE THE **CYNOSURE** OF ALL EYES!

WE WILL INVITE ALL OUR FRIENDS, DEAR... THE **VERY BEST** PEOPLE IN VENICE!



ALAS FOR MEMORIES! THE PRINCIPESSA DI POZZI HAS LAIN, THESE **TWENTY YEARS**, IN HER FAMILY MAUSOLEUM ON THE CEMETERY ISLE OF SAINT MICHELE.



A TEN O'CLOCK, THE COUNT RESORTS TO A STRATAGEM OF DESPERATION.

BEPPLO! YOU WILL TAKE THE GONDOLA AND SCOUR THE CANALS FOR PERSONS OF **BREEDING** AND **DISTINCTION**! YOU WILL PRESENT THEM WITH THE INVITATION CARD, AND YOU WILL BRING THEM BACK **HERE!**

SI, SI, EXCELLENCY!



THE COUNT'S PRIVATE GONDOLA BEARS BEPPO THROUGH THE NIGHT. OFF THE PUNTA DELLA DOGANA, A BLAZE OF LIGHTS REVEALS A SLIM YACHT.



SURELY TO OWN SUCH A VESSEL MUST TAKE MUCH BREEDING AND DISTINCTION...

VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON ARE HERE, TOO! THEY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT SIX THOUSAND MILES TO DO THEIR MAGIC ACT. SO FAR, NO ONE HAS ASKED THEM TO PERFORM.

PENDY, I WISH WE'D NEVER COME HERE! THEY'RE **EVIL**, ALL OF THEM! BEHIND THE SCENT OF JASMINE, I CATCH THE REEK OF THE **CHARNEL HOUSE!**

YOU'RE... **HIC!**...A TRIFLE OVER-CENSORIOUS, VAMPI, M' DEAR. MR. SULL MAY BE DEFICIENT IN SOME OF THE EXTERNAL TRAPPINGS OF A GENTLEMAN, BUT HIS BARMAN BUILDS A HELLUVA WHISKY SOUR!



LATER, THERE ARE SHRIEKS OF TAUT LAUGHTER. THE HOST HAS COME UP WITH ONE OF HIS FAMOUS **BLACK HUMOR GAMES....!**

RUSSIAN ROULETTE? HOW JA MEAN, RUSSIAN ROULETTE, ZYMER?



QUITE SIMPLE, OLD MAN. TONIGHT, ZOE AND CHARMIAN HERE WILL **STAKE THEIR LIVES** FOR SAMMY'S FAVORS...

INSTEAD OF A REVOLVER LOADED WITH FIVE BLANKS AND ONE LIVE SHELL...

...WE HAVE SIX GLASSES OF WINE...

...ONE OF THEM SPIKED WITH... **CYANIDE!**



THE YACHT BELONGS TO **ZYMER Z. SULL**. HE IS THE LAST OF THE MOVIE CZARS. HIS NAME IS SYNONYMOUS WITH **LUSTFUL DECADENCE** OF A PARTICULARLY **BRUTAL ORDER**. TONIGHT, THE YACHT IS PACKED WITH HIS **GILDED HANGERS-ON** / ALL WHO ARE YOUNG, DEBAUCHED AND BEAUTIFUL AMONG THE INTERNATIONAL SET. STAR GUEST TONIGHT IS **SAMMY BLEECHER**, WHO ILLUMINATES THIS DECADE AS "**THE VOICE OF DELIGHT!**"



FLOWERS OF EVIL, MY HONEY. CARRY ME AWAY, SOMEPLACE, TO **DIE...**



ZOE'S HAND TREMBLES AS SHE LIFTS HER CHOSEN GLASS...





I... I CAN'T DO IT...

YOU'RE ALL **MINE**, LOVER!

BABY, YOU'RE **CHICKEN!**

THANK THE STARS!



CONFIDENTIALLY, SUH... THE WHOLE THING WAS JUST A **GAG**, RIGHT? THERE WAS NO **CYANIDE** AT ALL, RIGHT?

YOU **THINK?**...



LET'S SEE HOW LITTLE ZOE **WOULD'VE** MADE OUT...



TEN SECONDS, THE MONKEY'S **RICTUS GRIN** OF AGONY IS FIXED FOREVER IN **DEATH!**

OH, MY GOD!

AMUSING, HUH? BUT YOU SPOILED THE BEST PART OF THE **FUN** BABY... NOW WHAT SHALL WE DO FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING? EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE STRICTLY **ANTI-CLIMACTIC!**



THAT MAN IS **UTTERLY** AND **COSMICALLY** **VILE!**



GUY HERE TO SEE YOU, BOSS!- SAYS HE'S GOT SOME KINDA PARTY INVITATION!

WHAT A GAS. THIS IS THE FREAK-OUT OF THE CENTURY! SOME NUTTY VENETIAN COUNT'S INVITING US TO A CARNIVAL AT HIS PALAZZO IN THE GRAND CANAL!

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU, FANS, THAT WE'RE ACCEPTING!

ZYMER Z. SULL AND HIS HANGERS- ON PILE WHOOPING, INTO THE BOATS.

WE'RE STUCK WITH IT, VAMPI DEAR.

I DON'T WANT TO GO, PENDY. THAT MAN AND HIS FRIENDS MAKE ME WISH I'D **NEVER** COME TO EARTH, AFTER ALL!

HAVING RECEIVED OUR FEE IN ADVANCE, I'M AFRAID WE'RE PART OF THE CARAVANSERAI! WHERE THE CUSTOMERS GO, THERE MUST THE ARTISTES GO ALSO!

THE PALAZZO UMBERTO!

WHAT A DUMP!

CASTLE DRACULA LIVES!

HAND ME MY SHROUD!

THEY ARE GREETED BY THE COUNT AND HIS DAUGHTER. SAMMY BLEEKER MAKES A BIG HIT WITH THE LATTER.

YOU'RE A SINGER, P? HOW DIVINE!

SUCH AN HONOR, SIGNOR.

YEAH!

I AM A SINGER ALSO!

DON'T LOOK NOW, DAH-LING, BUT I'D SAY THE DIVA'S GOT MORE THAN MUSIC IN MIND!

THEY SWARM UP TO THE BALLROOM, AMUSING THEMSELVES ON THE WAY.

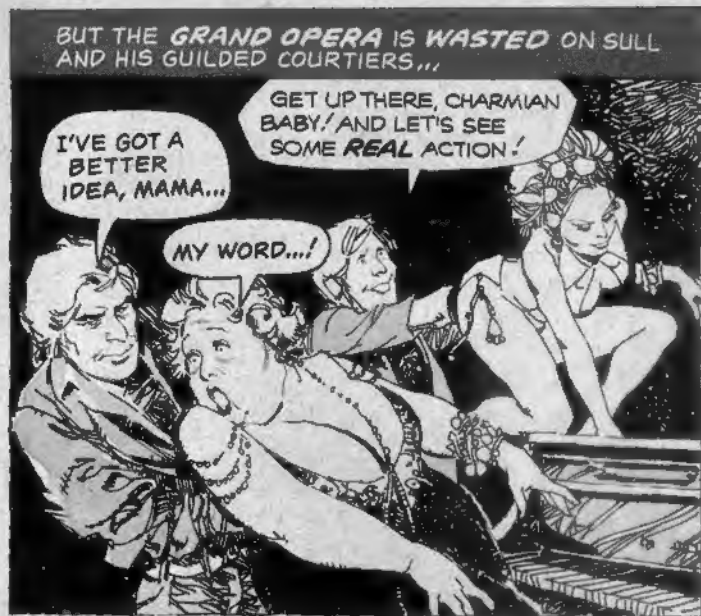
FIRSTLY, MY FRIENDS, MY DEAR DAUGHTER WILL DELIGHT US WITH A SELECTION OF **ARIAS**, TO HER OWN ACCOMPANIMENT ON THE PIANOFORTE.

GIVE, BABY!

GREAT!

HEY! A LADY WITH A MOUSTACHE!

THIS BEATS SUBWAY WALLS ANY DAY!



"THE VOICE OF DELIGHT" ANSWERS THE COUNT...

OUTA MY WAY,
YOU OLD HAYBAG!

...I GOT ME A
REAL MIND-
BENDING IDEA!



GET UP THERE
AND **STRIP** WITH
CHARMIAN, HUH?



I'M MAD FOR YOU, BABY!
LET'S DO SOMETHING...LIKE
LET'S MARRY, OR CLIMB A
MOUNTAIN, ZOOM TO THE
MOON, BUY ROME AND
BURN IT...

CARO MIO...
FOR YOU I WILL
DO ANYTHING...
ANYTHING!

DO
SOMETHING
FOR SAMMY,
HUH?



I'M GOING TO STOP
THE DEGRADATION OF
THAT POOR STUPID
WOMAN!

NO,
VAMPI!..
NO!



SIGNOR....I...
AAAAARRGHH!

CRACK



AND THEN...

EXCELLENCY! THE GONDOLAS
HAVE ARRIVED! THE NOBLE AND
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ARE
HERE!

MY DEAR! THEY HAVE
COME! OUR REAL GUESTS
HAVE COME AT LAST! FOLLOW
ME... WE MUST GREET
THEM!

THE GUESTS SWEEP IN, MASKED, SHIMMERING
WITH SATINS, SILKS, DAZZLING WITH HEIRLOOM
GEMS.

MY DEAR FRIENDS...
IT HAS BEEN SO LONG...
SO LONG...

WHO'RE
THESE
CREEPS?

A LOAD OF
SQUARES!
STRAIGHTS!

WHAT A
TERRIBLE
STINK! SOMEONE
SHOULD FIX THE
DRAINS IN THIS
DUMP!

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL
ABOUT MIDNIGHT? IS
THIS SOME KIND OF OLD
EARTH CUSTOM,
PENDY?

I AM MERELY
REMINDING, MY
DEAR, OF AN OLD TAG
ABOUT MIDNIGHT BEING
THE TIME WHEN
GRAVES YAWN AND
YIELD UP THEIR
DEAD!

NO NEED TO REMOVE
THE MASK...IT IS MY DEAR
FRIEND THE PRINCIPESSA
DI POZZI! CHARMED!

APOLOGIES FOR
OUR LATENESS, COUNT.
YOU PUT NINE O'CLOCK
ON THE INVITATIONS...
REGRETTABLY, WE ARE
NOT ABLE TO WALK
ABROAD TILL MIDNIGHT
HAD STRUCK.



SAMMY BLECHER IS NOTHING IF NOT AN OPPORTUNIST.

HI, BABY. HOW ABOUT YOU AND ME MAKING SWEET MUSIC TOGETHER, HUH?

IF YOU ARE REQUESTING A DANCE, SIGNOR, I AGREE WITH PLEASURE.



HONEY, YOU'RE SO SLENDER AND LIGHT. BUT WHAT GIVES WITH THE MASK? WHY DO YOU HIDE YOUR FACE..?

IT IS AN OLD VENETIAN CUSTOM, SIGNOR.



AW, IT COMES BETWEEN US, BABY...

NOT SO, SIGNOR. FAR FROM A BARRIER, IT IS AN INVITATION TO FURTHER INTIMACIES!

THEN LET'S MAKE WITH THE INTIMACIES, BABY!



EEEE-A-A-A-AHHHHH!



HE...HE'S DANCING WITH A CORPSE! YOU WERE RIGHT, PENDY...! THE GRAVES HAVE YIELDED UP THEIR DEAD TONIGHT!



IN THOSE FEW BRIEF INSTANTS, SAMMY BLEESHER, "VOICE OF DELIGHT" AND STAR-OF-STARS, IS ~~SENT~~ IRREVERSIBLY AND ~~PERMANENTLY~~ MEANE WITH SHOCK AND HORROR.

MOMMY... WHERE ARE YOU, MOMMY?... I WAN' MY MOMMY...

SUCH A PITY! HE WAS TOO... IMPORTUNATE!

OTHERS OF ZYMER Z. SULL'S ENTOURAGE SEEM TO BE MADE OF STERNER STUFF.

NOW SEE HERE, I KNOW THIS IS SOME KIND OF GAG...

...BUT NOT FOR LONG!

...AAAAAHHHHH!!!

AN IVORY-HANDLED PISTOL FLASHES TO ZYMER Z. SULL'S HAND...

YOU'RE BEHIND ALL THIS DEVILRY, YOU OLD..

NO! NO! PLEASE, SIGNOR I BEG YOU

NO! YOU WON'T KILL ANYONE, SULL! BUT YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR EVIL!!

THE DELICIOUS **DRAKULONNE** ONLY LIVES AS A NORMAL WOMAN BY USING BLOOD-SUBSTITUTE SERUM EVERY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. BUT VAMPIRELLA'S LUST FOR **ARMY BLOOD** NEVER LEAVES HER. HER **TEETH** ARE EQUALLED BY HER **JUSTICE!**

UUUUUUHHH...



OH, PENDY... I'VE... I'VE **DRAINED** HIM DRY! I'M SO **ASHAMED** OF MYSELF! I-I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO BE HIS **JUDGE, JURY A-AND EXECUTION-ER!**

THE RAT DESERVED IT, MY DEAR. COME AWAY. LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE. IT'S NOT FOR US.



VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON QUIT THE PALAZZO UMBERTO (THE LATE ZYMER Z. SULL'S GILDED HANGERS-ON HAVE LONG SINCE FLED), LEAVING THE COUNT AND HIS **GUESTS** TO THEIR **CARNIVAL OF DEATH**. THEY DANCE TILL COCKCROW! RECALLS THEM TO THEIR **NOBLE MAUSOLEUMS**.

HAPPY, MY DEAR?



YES, PAPA IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE **RIGHT** SORT OF PEOPLE! SUCH A PITY MAMA'S TOO TIRED TO JOIN IN.



THE COUNTESS UMBERTO **DEPARTED** THIS LIFE A VERY LONG TIME AGO! BUT HER ADORING HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER HAVE NEVER HAD THE HEART TO **PART** WITH HER **REMAINS**.

YOU WOULD HAVE **LOVED** IT, MY DEAR.

ONCE WE GOT RID OF THE **RIFF-RAFF**, IT WENT WITH A REAL **SWING!**



AS VAMPIRELLA OFTEN REMARKS TO **HER OFF-BEAT** COMPANION...

I WONDER IF THE UMBERTOS ARE STILL THROWING PARTIES?

I'VE A **GRAVE** SUSPICION THEY MIGHT, VAMPI!..

ONCE SOCIALIZING GETS A HOLD OF SOME PEOPLE, THEY CAN'T **BIER** A QUIET LIFE...

THEY **CADAVER** ABOUT ALMOST EVERY NIGHT!



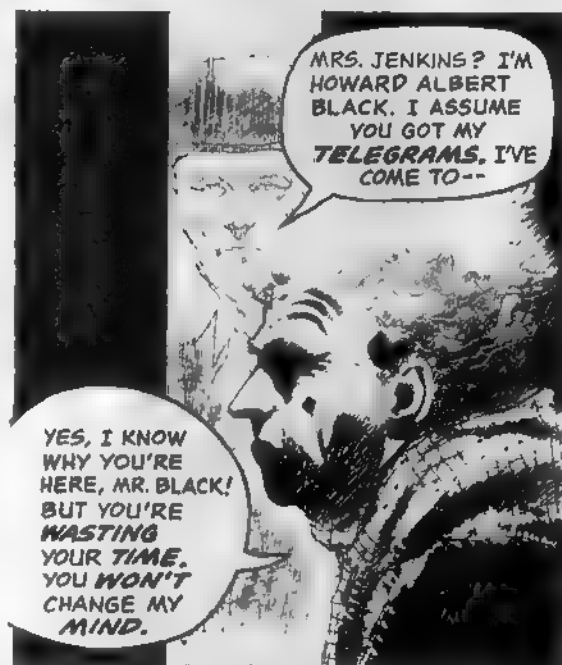
BESIDES BEING THE **RICHEST MAN ON EARTH**, HOWARD ALBERT BLACK HAD ANOTHER DISTINCTION THAT SET HIM APART FROM "ORDINARY" PEOPLE. HE COLLECTED **WIVES**.

NOT JUST YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL WIVES, BUT VERY **SPECIAL WIVES**. WOMEN WITH **PECULIARITIES**.



SO IT WAS THAT WHEN HE CAME TO THE DILAPIDATED HOME OF OLD MA JENKINS, MR. BLACK HAD ALREADY MARRIED AND DIVORCED **SIX** WOMEN, AND WAS SEARCHING FOR A SEVENTH, A ONE WHO WAS CALLED...

MIRANDA





BUT DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I'LL GIVE YOU **ONE MILLION DOLLARS...** TAX FREE!

YOU'RE OFFERING ME ALL THAT MONEY IF I LET YOU **MARRY** MY NIECE, MIRANDA! BUT THAT CAN **NEVER BE!**

SHE... SHE'S... **DEFORMED.**



BUT THAT'S **EXACTLY** WHY I WANT TO MARRY HER... WHY I **MUST** MARRY HER!



HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU. THESE **PHOTOS...** OF MY FORMER WIVES.

BUT... THESE WOMEN HAVE SUFFERED... **TERRIBLY!**

FIRST THERE WAS MARIE, WITH ONLY **ONE EYE...** THEN JULIE, WHO HAD **NO ARMS...**



I WAS MARRIED TO THEM **ALL**, MRS. JENKINS.

YOU SEE, I FIND **BEAUTY** IN THE...UNIQUE! SOME WEALTHY MEN COLLECT GEMS, OTHERS CARS... BUT I COLLECT **WIVES!** VERY **UNUSUAL WIVES!**



THIS IS HORRIBLE! **EVIL!** AND NOW YOU WANT MY NIECE...

...POOR, DELICATE **MIRANDA...!?**



AT LEAST LET ME **SEE** HER! YOU CAN HAVE A **THOUSAND DOLLARS** IF YOU'LL JUST LET ME **SEE** HER!

I DON'T WANT YOUR **MONEY** MR. BLACK! NEITHER DO I WANT YOU MARRIED TO MY NIECE. I'VE A MIND TO THROW YOU THE HELL **OUT** OF HERE! BUT I GUESS IT'S ONLY **RIGHT** THAT MIRANDA **MEET** YOU!

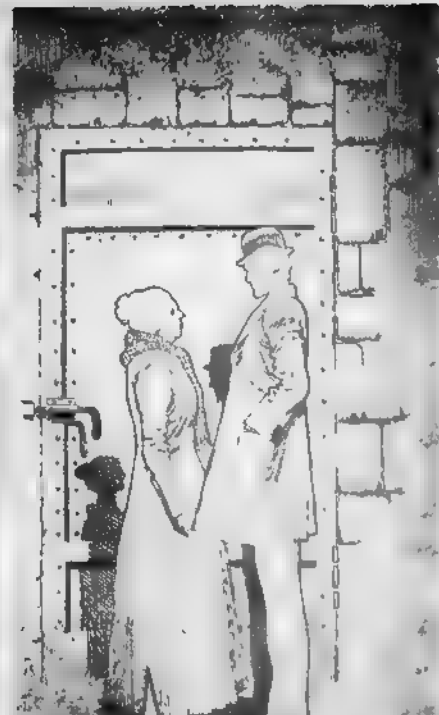


THEN... THE
STORIES I'VE
HEARD... OF A
MANTIS WOMAN...
PART HUMAN,
PART INSECT...
THEY WERE
TRUE!

**BUT BEWARE, MR. BLACK... YOU
ARE GOING TO BEHOLD SOMETHING
THAT MAY STUN YOUR SENSES.**



YES,
MR. BLACK!



MY NIECE, MIRANDA, WAS
BORN A **MONSTROSITY...** A
FREAK OF NATURE. WHEN HER PARENTS
DIED, I BROUGHT HER HERE, AWAY
FROM THE WORLD'S PRYING EYES.
NOW YOU SHALL SEE FOR
YOURSELF...



MIRANDA...
YOU HAVE A
VISITOR.

WHO
IS IT?

OH, YOU MUST
BE MR. BLACK,
THAT VERY RICH
MAN WHO HAS
BEEN WRITING
TO US!

WHY... SHE'S
BEAUTIFUL!
BUT THOSE TALES
OF A **MANTIS**
WOMAN--

**SHOW HIM,
MIRANDA!**
SATISFY HIS
MORBID
CURIOSITY.





I DON'T USUALLY DISPLAY MY DEFORMITY, MR. BLACK, BUT IF YOU WISH!

BUT YOU'RE MORE EXQUISITE THAN I HAD HOPED POSSIBLE!



I MUST HAVE YOU AS MY BRIDE, MIRANDA! SAY YES, AND I'LL MAKE YOU RICHER THAN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!

BRIDE?? I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND!



THAT'S ENOUGH, MR. BLACK! YOU'VE SEEN WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO SEE. NOW YOU MUST LEAVE!

MRS. JENKINS... PLEASE..!



CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

IF YOU'LL ALLOW MIRANDA TO BE MY WIFE, SHE WON'T BE GAWKED AT LIKE A CHEAP CIRCUS FREAK!

SHE'LL BE TREATED LIKE A QUEEN!

YOU'RE INSANE!



PLEASE HEED MY ADVICE AND FORGET THIS PERVERTED DREAM OF YOURS. NO AMOUNT OF MONEY WILL MAKE ME GIVE HER TO YOU!

MIRANDA MUST NOT MARRY YOU OR ANYONE ELSE, MR. BLACK!

BELIEVE ME, MR. BLACK... THERE IS A REASON WHY I CANNOT LET MIRANDA MARRY. FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, FORGET HER.

VERY WELL, MRS. JENKINS...



...I'LL LEAVE MIRANDA FOR THE TIME BEING! BUT I WARN YOU... I'M USED TO HAVING MY OWN WAY... NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO GET IT!

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST FROM ME.



THE CONCEITED FOOL!

AUNT MARGARET? DID MR. BLACK MEAN WHAT HE SAID? HE WANTS TO MARRY ME?



HE'S A MADMAN, MIRANDA! HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS SAYING.

DON'T LIE TO ME! YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE ME GET MARRIED LIKE A NORMAL WOMAN! YOU WANT TO KEEP ME A PRISONER HERE!



DON'T BE FOOLISH, GIRL! DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST MAN WHO TOOK AN INTEREST IN YOU?

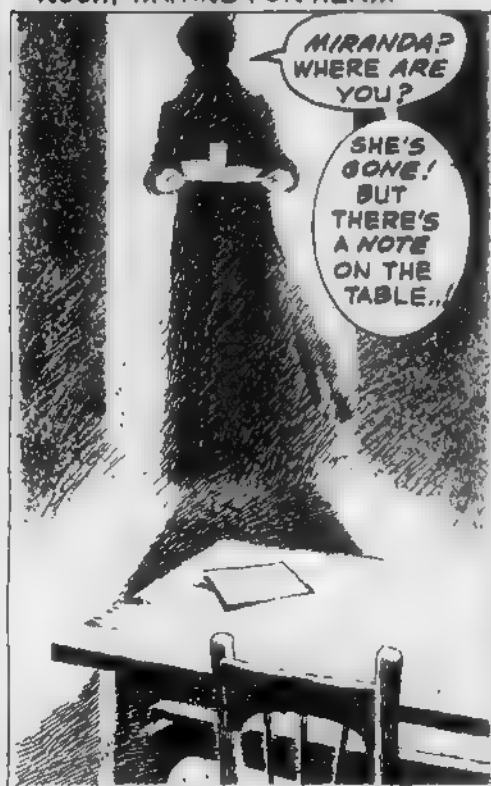
BUT THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN! I WON'T LET IT!



COME TO YOUR SENSES! YOU'RE MORE PRAYING MANTIS THAN WOMAN, MIRANDA... AND YOU ALWAYS WILL BE!

YOU MUST NEVER LEAVE THIS HOUSE!

THE NEXT DAY, MA JENKINS BROUGHT MIRANDA HER BREAKFAST... BUT FOUND AN EMPTY ROOM WAITING FOR HER...



MIRANDA? WHERE ARE YOU?

SHE'S GONE! BUT THERE'S A NOTE ON THE TABLE...

"MRS. JENKINS,
IN THIS ENVELOPE
YOU WILL FIND THE
ONE MILLION DOLLARS I
PROMISED YOU. I HAVE
CONVINCED YOUR NIECE TO
LEAVE WITH ME. BY THE
TIME YOU READ THIS, SHE
WILL BE MY WIFE!

Howard Albert Black
P.S. IF YOU WISH TO SEE
MIRANDA AND I, OUR
HOME IS LOCATED
AT...

THAT MANIAC!
HE DOESN'T
REALIZE WHAT
HE'S DONE!

TERRIFIED THAT SHE WAS ALREADY **TOO LATE**, MA
JENKINS **HURRIED** TO THE ADDRESS GIVEN IN
MR. BLACK'S NOTE...

YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME
IN! MR. BLACK IS IN TERRIBLE
DANGER! EVERY SECOND
COULD MEAN HIS LIFE!

OKAY, LADY... IF
IT'S REALLY SO
IMPORTANT,
I'LL LET YOU
IN...

AAAAAAHHHH

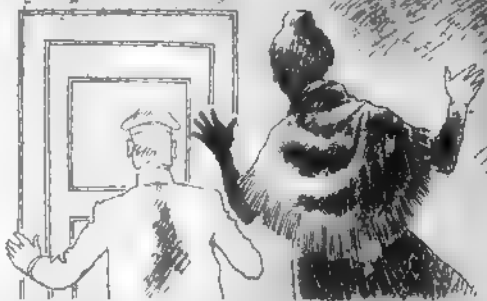
WHAT WAS
THAT?!

MY GOD!
I WARNED
THE FOOL!
I BEGGED
HIM NOT TO
MARRY MY
NIECE! NOW
IT'S TOO
LATE!

HURRY!
THERE
MAY STILL
BE TIME
TO SAVE
HIM!

HE KNEW MY
NIECE WAS A
FREAK OF
NATURE... A
MANTIS
WOMAN.

BUT HE DIDN'T
KNOW THAT HER
IMPULSES WERE
MORE INSECT
THAN HUMAN!
AND I COULDN'T
BRING MYSELF
TO TELL HIM...



IF ONLY HE HAD
READ BOOKS ON
INSECTS AS I
HAVE, HE WOULD
HAVE UNDERSTOOD
WHY MIRANDA MUST
NEVER BE MARRIED!

BUT I SHOULD
HAVE TOLD HIM...

I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM...

PRAYING MANTISES ALWAYS
EAT THEIR MATES!

WHILE YOU'RE
DIGESTING THAT
STORY, I HOPE YOU'LL
GO ON AND EAT UP
MY NEXT ONE...!



FLEUR



YOUR GRACE? THESE...THESE **BOOIES...** OF MEN...WOMEN... ALL **BURNED!**

DON'T **TROUBLE** YOUR MIND, RUDYARD. **CHELIDONIUS** THE **WITCHFINDER** OF SPAIN IS ZEALOUSLY DOING **GOD'S** WORK.

FROM THE SPAIN OF LEGEND!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU **WANT** HERE?

I AM **RICHARD**, EARL OF PARLAN, RETURNING TO ENGLAND FROM A PILGRIMAGE TO THE **HOLY LAND.** I REQUEST A NIGHT'S **LODGING** FOR MYSELF AND MY RETAINERS.

THIS IS NOT A **HOSTEL!** BEGONE OR..

NONSENSE, JOSE. INVITE HIS GRACE IN!

THEY LOOK **WEARY** FROM THEIR LONG JOURNEY. **CHELIDONIUS** REFUSES AID TO NO **CHRISTIAN.**

A RICH TRAVELER IS ALWAYS WELCOME HERE.

GO TO THE DEPTHS OF THE CASTLE AND BRING FORTH OLD WOMAN **GIRALDA...** IF SHE IS STILL **ALIVE**. I HAVE ONE MORE USE FOR HER BEFORE TOMORROW'S **BURNING.**

AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE WE WERE **INTERRUPTED** MY CHILD... BEING WITCHFINDER GENRAL HAS PUT **ONEROUS DUTIES** ONTO MY BACK.

I WAS FORCED TO PUT HUNDREDS OF YOUR NEIGHBORS TO **DEATH** FOR **CONSORTING** WITH THE **DEVIL**. AND BEFORE THIS AREA IS **PURIFIED**, HUNDREDS **MORE** MUST ALSO **DIE.**

THIS YOUNG NOBLE'S **RICHES** SHALL BE IN MY **COFFERS** BEFORE ANOTHER SUNSET.

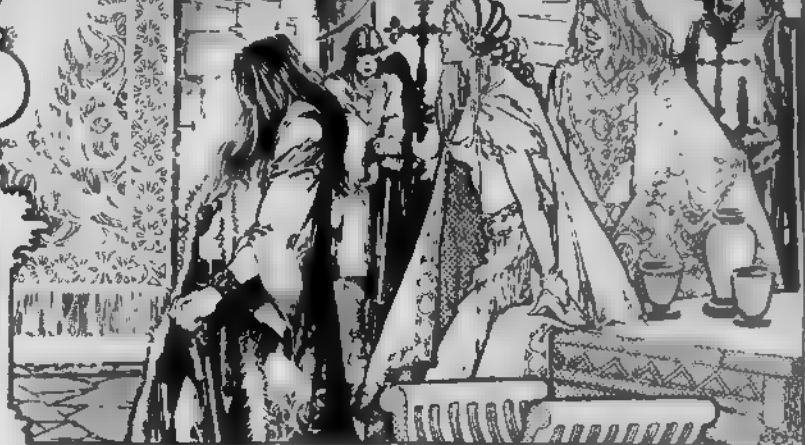
ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH **LARGE ESTATES...** WHICH YOU THEN **APPROPRIATE.**

YOUR **VOICE** IS LIKE THE
TINKLING OF BELLS, LURA...!
BUT I **DISLIKE** YOUR
WORDS!

YOU HAVE DONE MUCH TO **BRIGHTEN**
THE **NIGHTS** OF THIS HUMBLE SERVANT
OF GOD! I SHOULD HATE TO DISCOVER
THAT YOU **SERVE** THE **DARK FORCES**.
I WOULD HAVE TO TAKE CERTAIN
STEPS. I AM, YOU KNOW, AN
HONORABLE MAN.

YOUR
COURTESY
IS --

THINK **NOTHING** OF IT! MY
GOD-APPOINTED TASK IS ARDUOUS
AND ANY INFREQUENT VISITOR
BRINGS A RAY OF **SUNSHINE**
INTO MY LIFE.



IN YOUR **TRAVELS**
I IMAGINE YOU HAVE
COVERED A LOT OF
GROUND..



QUIET HAG...
UNTIL YOU'RE
NEEDED.

...AND VISITED
MANY **COVENS**.

COVENS?
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN? ONLY
WITCHES--?

ARE YOU
ACCUSING ME OF
WITCHCRAFT?

THE
ACCUSATION HAS
ALREADY BEEN
MADE... BY AN
ADMITTED **WITCH!**

CONFESS, HAG!
IS THIS THE **SORCEROR**
WHOSE COMING
YOU FORETOLD?

YES! IT IS **HE!**
I **CONFESS!** HE
IS THE ONE!

THIS IS
INSANE! SHE
DOESN'T EVEN HAVE
EYES TO **SEE** ME
WITH.



WITCHES DON'T
REQUIRE EYES TO SEE.
THE EVIDENCE AGAINST
YOU IS **OVERWHELMING!**

I SENTENCE YOU TO
**DEATH BY FIRE AT THE
MASS BURNING...**
TOMORROW AT DAWN.

YOU'RE A
MADMAN!!

TAKE HIM AND
THE HAG TO THE
DUNGEON!



YOU AND THE HAG
MAKE A GOOD PAIR!
ENJOY YOURSELVES!
**DAWN COMES
EARLY!!**

FREE US!

LORD
HELP US!

WE ARE NOT
WITCHES!!

THE **HAG!** SHE
NAMED US AS
WITCHES!

WE **DIE** TOMORROW
BECAUSE OF HER!

PUNISH HER!

KILL HER!!

DEATH TO HER!

REVENGE!!

WAT!

SHE'S BEEN THROUGH
TORTURE! HAVE
PITY!

LEAVE THEM **BE!**
COME MORNING WE'LL
ALL BE DEAD ANYWAY
LET THEM HAVE THEIR
RUN!

GOD!





YOU ARE SO CALM... WITH DEATH SO CLOSE?

DEATH HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE TO ME. I HAVE SPENT EIGHTY THREE YEARS IN INCARNATION.

I AM FLEUR. I HAVE HAD MANY LIVES...AND I SHALL HAVE MANY MORE!

YOU TALK AS THOUGH YOU ACTUALLY ARE A...



...A WITCH? BUT I AM. WHY DENY IT. IT'S BEEN A GOOD LIFE. BUT I'LL HAVE OTHERS!

BUT I WON'T HAVE OTHER LIVES! I WANT TO ESCAPE... TO GET REVENGE ON THAT SLIME WHO PUT ME HERE!



THERE I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH YOU! THAT MONSTER HAS MURDERED HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE!

WE NEED PRACTICAL PLANS... NOT WITCHLY DAYDREAMS!

THESE PIECES OF IRON STIFLE MY REVENGE... WEAKENING MY POWERS ALMOST TO IMPOTENCE!

SO YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE...!

MY POWERS, ALTHOUGH WEAKENED, CAN STILL PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE EXAMPLE OF MY STRENGTH!

NOTE YON WOMAN, CHEWING AWAY ON THE HAND OF HER FORMER NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR...



MANY TIMES IN RECENT YEARS, THAT OLD WOMAN WOULD TAKE TO THE WOODS AND OBTAIN... PLEASURE... AT THE EXPENSE OF ANY INNOCENT CHILD WHO HAPPENED TO CROSS HER PATH.

EVEN SO GREAT AN IRRATIONALITY AS THE INQUISITION OCCASIONALLY SNAGS ACTUAL CRIMINALS!





**MUSCLE
CONTRACTION!
RIGOR MORTIS!
A FREAK
ACCIDENT!**

**ACCIDENT? IF SO, WHY HAS
THE HAND
CRAWLED
THROUGH THE
STRAW...**

**...AND
GRABBED
YOUR
FOOT?**

CONVINCED?

AAAA!

**YES, DAMN
YOU, FOR THE
FRIGHT OF MY
LIFE, FLEUR!**

**BUT GAMES
WON'T SAVE US
TOMORROW! THESE
CHAINS LIMIT ME
TOO CLOSELY... AS
IRON DOES TO ALL
WITCHES!**

**THOSE
CHAINS PRESENT
NO PROBLEM TO
ME, M'LADY!**

**THIS SHARP
BLADE IN THE
LOCK WILL HAVE
YOU FREE
SMARTLY.**



**LURA, THE
BURNINGS FOR
TOMORROW LEAVE
YOU UNEASY?**

**YES,
VERY!**

**I SUPPOSE IT
IS TO BE EXPECTED!
YOU'VE KNOWN
THOSE PEOPLE
SINCE YOU WERE
BORN... ALL FORTY-
FIVE OF THEM.
TAKE THIS... DRINK
IT! IT WILL
CALM YOU!**

**WHILE YOU ARE
DRINKING THAT...
ALL OF IT... I
WOULD LIKE TO
INTRODUCE MY
NEW... MISTRESS
TO YOU**





AAAH! MY HEAD!
IT BURNS!

THIS IS **CHASTITY!**
SHE HAS JUST RETURNED
FROM PARIS WHERE SHE
STUDIED MANY... AH...
SKILLS! I AM EAGER
TO... **TEST HER!**

I... I **BURN** ALL
OVER! **GOD HELP**
ME!

I'M
GOING
MAD!

LURA
GOES INSANE
NICELY!

YES! THE POTION I
GAVE HER **DEPRIVES** HER
OF ALL **REASON.** HER
SCREAMS WILL BE THE
PERFECT MUSICAL BACK-
GROUND FOR OUR FIRST
NIGHT **TOGETHER..!**



AND IN THE **DEPTHS** OF THE SAME
CASTLE, IT HAS BEEN A **LONG** NIGHT
FOR **OTHERS...** OTHERS WHO HAVE
NOT BEEN IDLE!



EVERYBODY
UP!

THIS IS THE
DAY YOU ALL GO
TO **HELL!**




YOUR **HANDS** ARE
FREE! USE YOUR
POWER NOW!
BEFORE WE **DIE!**

PATIENCE,
RICHARD! **REVENGE**
IS AN **ART!** FOR
MAXIMUM EFFECT IT
MUST BE HANDLED
PROPERLY.



YOU **LYING--!** YOU
WERE **TOYING** WITH
ME YOU'VE NO MORE
POWERS THAT I.



**STOP THIS
MADNESS! UNHAND
ME. I'M AN ENGLISH
NOBLEMAN!**

**QUET!
BEFORE THE
INQUISITION ALL
WITCHES ARE
TREATED EQUALLY!**

**... ALL ARE
BURNED.**

**KISS THE
CRUCIFIX AND
PRAY FOR GOD'S
MERCY!**

**...WHEN MY
OWN POWERS ARE
MORE THAN ADEQUATE
TO MEET THE...**

...SITUATION!


**BACK OFF,
WANTON. I HAVE
NO NEED OF CHEAP
SYMBOLISM...**

**A WEAK BLAST
WILL SUFFICE TO
FREE YOU FROM
YOUR BONDS.**

**MANY THANKS!
I WAS A FOOL
TO DOUBT
YOU!**

**A MORE
POWERFUL
BLAST WILL
TEACH THEM
SOME
RESPECT!!**

**A WITCH IS
FREE! DESTROY
HER!**



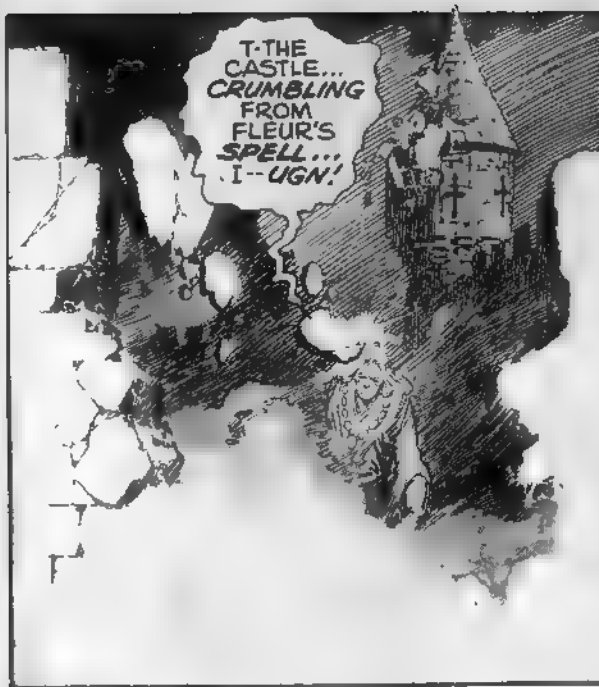
HEAR ME, DARK
ONE. FREE THE INNOCENTS
ACCUSED OF WALKING
OUR PATH. RAWAGE THIS
PLACE AND ALL THOSE
WHO PRACTICE
EVIL HERE!

NOW...TO **BALANCE**
AGAIN THE SCALES OF
JUSTICE.

GOD HELP ME!
SHE **WAS** A
WITCH!

LOOK OUT!
THE STATUE...
FALLING!!

NNNNNNNNNN



T-**THE**
CASTLE...
CRUMBLING
FROM
FLEUR'S
SPELL...
I--**UGN!**



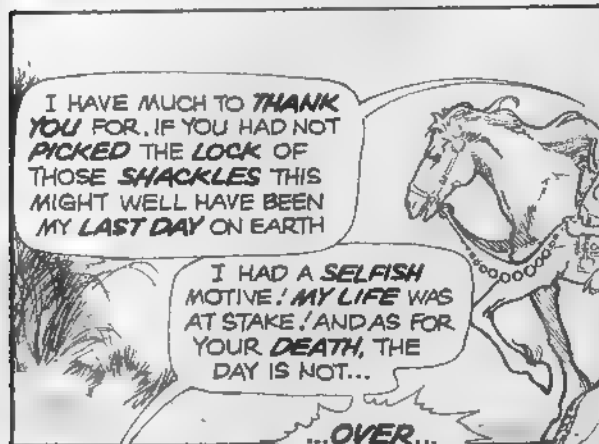
WHA...?

BE CALM.
THE WALLS
COLLAPSED.
YOU WERE HIT
BY SOME
DEBRIS.



THE CASTLE...
DESTROYED! YOUR
POWERS MUST BE
VERY **GREAT**
INDEED, FLEUR!

THEY ARE
ADEQUATE.
COME! I FOUND
TWO HORSES
FOR US.



I HAVE MUCH TO **THANK**
YOU FOR. IF YOU HAD NOT
PICKED THE **LOCK** OF
THOSE **SHACKLES** THIS
MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN
MY **LAST DAY** ON EARTH

I HAD A **SELFISH**
MOTIVE. MY **LIFE** WAS
AT STAKE. AND AS FOR
YOUR **DEATH**, THE
DAY IS NOT...

...OVER...

BUT YOUR
LIFE IS!

WHY? **WHY?**
I... I SAVED YOU...
SPARED YOU...

IT'S NOT A
MATTER OF
PREFERENCE... BUT
RATHER OF **DUTY!**
IN MY HOME COUNTRY
I AM A **WITCHFINDER!**

AS THE
HOLY BOOK
SAYS--
EH?





A-A GIRL...
POSSESSED!



THE BLADE STRIKES SIR RICHARD AGAIN AND AGAIN! FLASHING PAIN STREAKS THROUGH HIS SKULL... AND THE LAST THING THE ENGLISH NOBLEMAN SEES, ARE THE BURNING EYES OF HATRED, CHELIDONIUS' DEAD MISTRESS, LURA... A ZOMBIE ANIMATED BY FLEUR'S DREAD SORCERY...

YOU'VE DONE WELL, DEAD GIRL! NOW I MUST...

...HELP YOU!



LIVE! LIVE AGAIN THROUGH THE MAGIC OF WITCHCRAFT! BE FREE...ALIVE!

THE PAIN... THE POUNDING... LEAVING ME.



THE DEMON THAT POSSESSED ME... IS GONE, BUT... YOU'RE HURT!!

UUGGGHH!

MY GOD! WHAT CAN I DO?

THERE IS NOTHING... YOU CAN DO, BUT DON'T GRIEVE. I WILL RETURN.

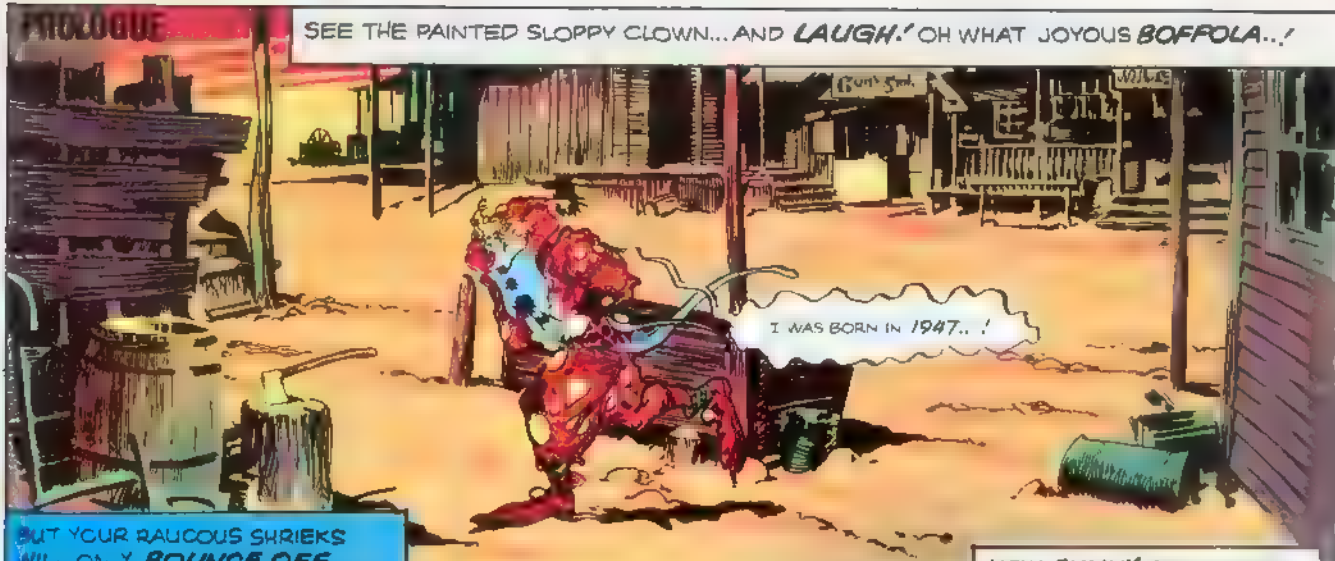
WE WITCHES ALWAYS DO.

... ALWAYS... DO...



PROLOGUE

SEE THE PAINTED SLOPPY CLOWN... AND **LAUGH.** OH WHAT JOYOUS **BOFFOLA...**!



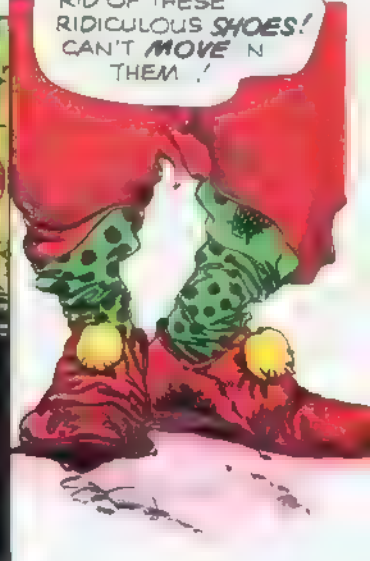
BUT YOUR RAUCOUS SHRIEKS
WILL ONLY **BOUNCE OFF**
EVERY POLKA-DOTTED TARGET
OF THE FOOL'S **PRISON SUIT...**
AND SLAM BACK IN YOUR
EARS LIKE A DUNGEON DOOR
SHUTTING FOR GOOD...!

HOW **FUNNY** TH'S LAUGH-
SOPPER LOOKS WITH HIS
FLAPPY FEET **RUNNING...**!

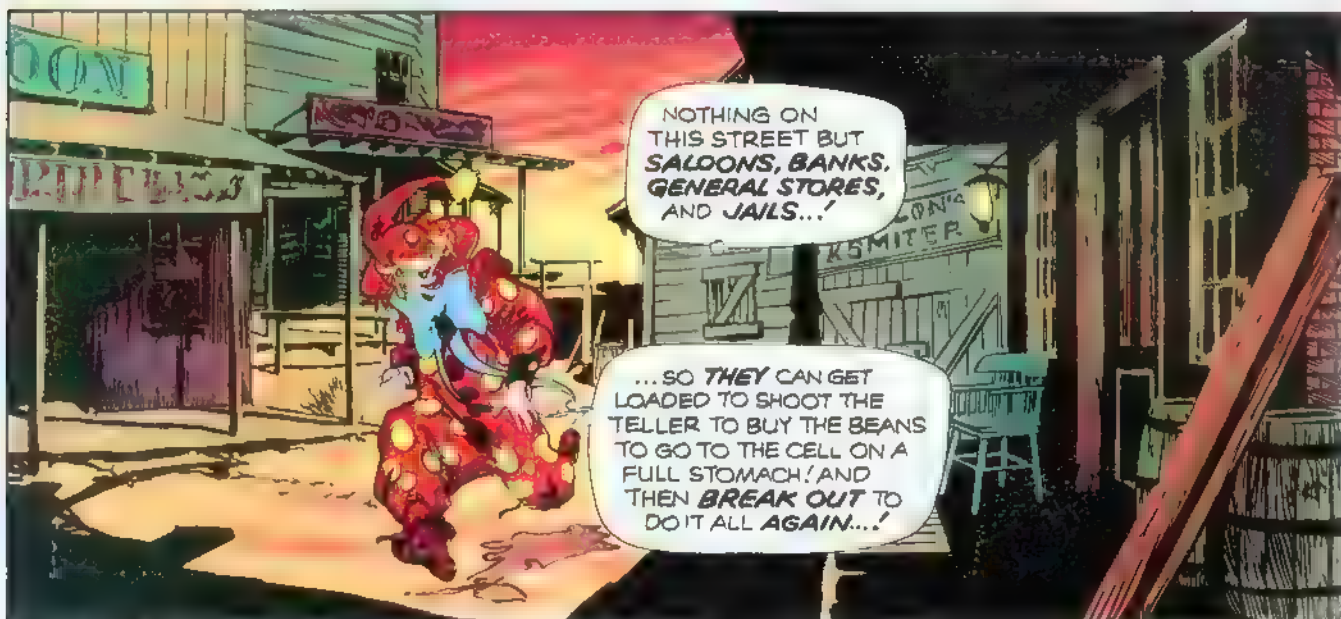
GOT TO GET
RID OF THESE
RIDICULOUS **SHOES!**
CAN'T **MOVE** 'N
THEM..!



GOT TO **RUN**
FOR MY LIFE
EVERY YEAR...
FROM **1984** TO
2001...!



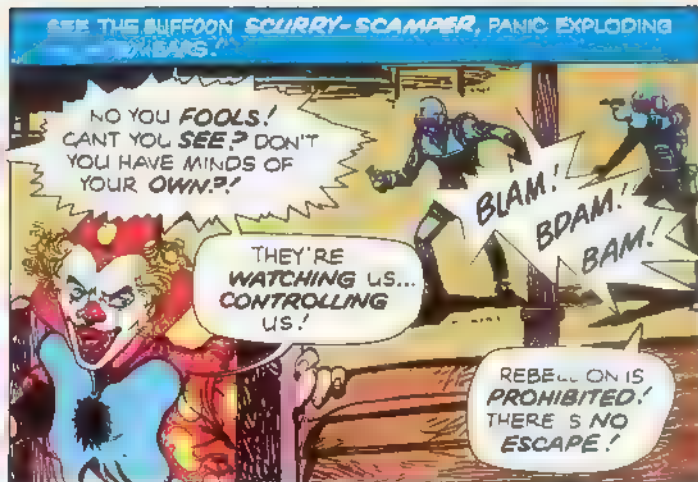
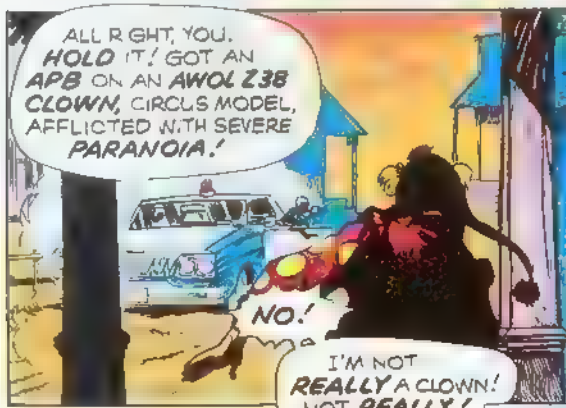
WHAT? NO MORE SLAP-FLAPPY OXFORDS TO PROVOKE THOSE UPROARIOUS BELLY-BOOMS?



NOTHING ON
THIS STREET BUT
SALOONS, BANKS,
GENERAL STORES,
AND JAILS...!

...SO **THEY** CAN GET
LOADED TO SHOOT THE
TELLER TO BUY THE BEANS
TO GO TO THE CELL ON A
FULL STOMACH...AND
THEN **BREAK OUT** TO
DO IT ALL **AGAIN...**!

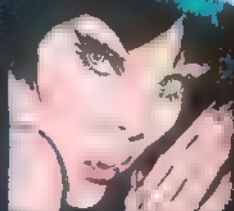
SIREN-SNAPPY NO MORE **LAUGHY.** THE CE BLUE SLITS SWOOP IN FOR THE **KILL...**!



THROUGH THE SWINGING DOORS STRAIGHT TO **MADNESS...**!



YOU SAY YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S **HAPPENING**, SHRIEK-CREEPS? WELL, ALL THE FUZZIES WILL BE **CLEARED UP...** IF YOU JUST STAY **TUNED!**

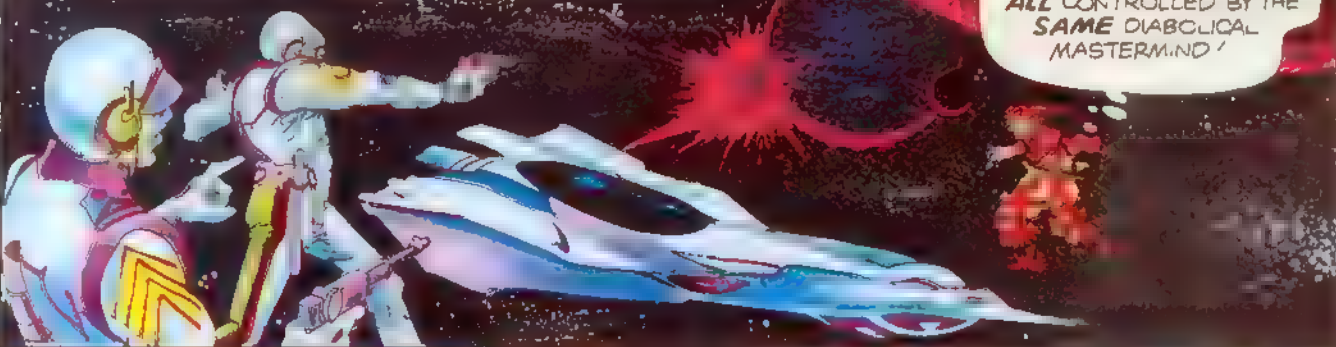


BLACK AND WHITE VACUUM TO BLUES

WATCH THE FLOTSAM FUNMAKER, FOLLOWED BY HIS FEROCIOUS **FOES...**

INTO THE GIGGLY-SILENT **STARDOUST...** THROUGH NO
AIR AT ALL!

WHAT'S WORSE...?
**COPS OR GALACTIC
MARAUDERS?** THEY'RE
ALL CONTROLLED BY THE
**SAME DIABOLICAL
MASTERMIND!**



A GREAT SUCKY **INTAKE** AND THE
JESTER OF THE SPACEWAY
BECOMES UNLATCHED INTO A WHIFF
MOODLE... SLAPPED AWAY
TOWARD THE **STARBUST**...
MC...

THE
SPACERS'VE
GOT ME. CAUGHT
ME IN A **SUCTION
VORTEX!**

FWOOOOOP

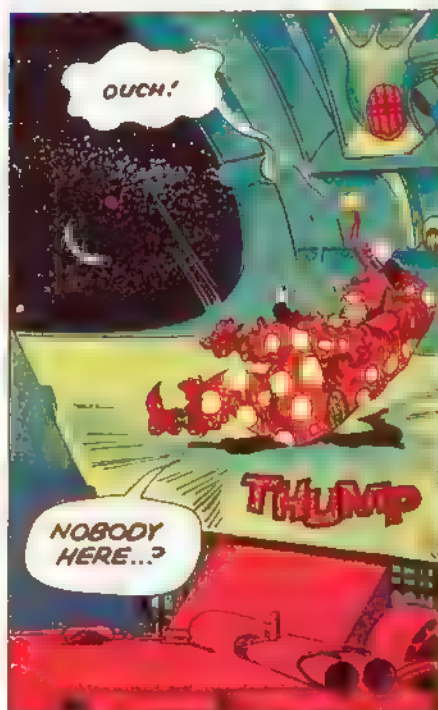


...**DOWN-THUMPED** ON A SOFT SPOT
IN A **STARBURST** OF **PAIN...**

OUCH!

**NOBODY
HERE...?**

THUMP



MAYBE THIS
DOOR LEADS TO
THE **CONTROL
ROOM!** MAYBE I
CAN USE THIS SHIP
AS A **VEHICLE** FOR
ESCAPE!



SEE THE MIRTHY CREATOR OF JOLLITY SO FUNNY-STUNNED AS HE OPENS THE
PLASTIC-TEEL SPACESHIP **PORTAL...**

NOT AGAIN!
I'VE LIVED THIS
**BEFORE... OVER
AND OVER,** THE
SAME THINGS!

**UGH! HERE
IS CLOWN!** CLOWN
MUST UNDERGO
HEAP **BIG TRIAL!**



LOOKY! THE CLOWN WAVERS ON CHILL-BARE FEET, PREFERRING AN EMPTY **SPACE CRUISER** TO A PLANE FULL OF **SCALP-SEEKERS**...

THEN AGAIN, SWARM-SLEWS OF **SCALP-SEEKERS** SEEM MORE DESIRABLE THAN BLUEMEN WITH BLASTING BLAZERS. !



BUT...

JIGGERS... THE COPS!

WHY DID I SAY THAT? I WAS FORCED TO SAY THAT!



SLAM!

BLAM! BAM!

THERE HE GOES, O'CASEY! GET HIM!



HOKAY, CLOWN. YOU KNOW RULES. THIS IS LAND OF PREDESTINY... NO **FREE WILL!** EVERYTHING **PROGRAMMED** FOR US! NO CAN BREAK **ORDER...**

BUT YOU CAN'T DO THIS! WE SHARE A COMMON **ADVERSARY!** WE SHOULD **UNITE** TO BREAK FREE OF THE **BIG BROTHER** WHO'S **WATCHING** US... WHO KEEPS US UNDER **CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE!**



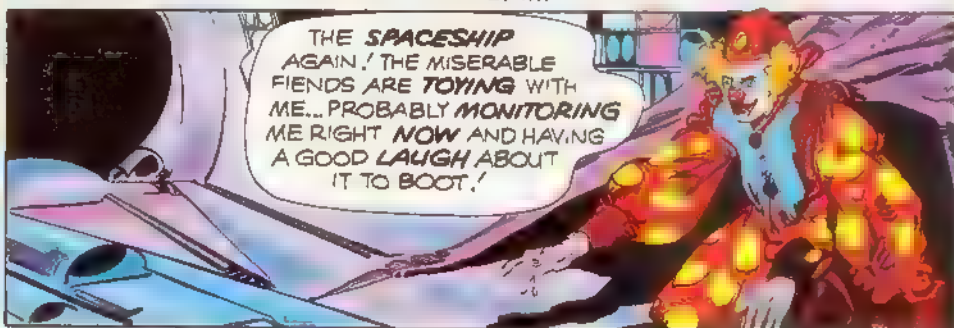
STOP FLCKING **FORKED TONGUE**, WHITEFACE! YOU WASTE **TIME!** WE ONLY ALLOTTED CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME.. MUST ACCOMPLISH **PRESCRIBED PURPOSE** THEREIN. NO **REBELS** ARE ALLOWED!

THE TEEPEE...! F I CAN DASH INTO IT...



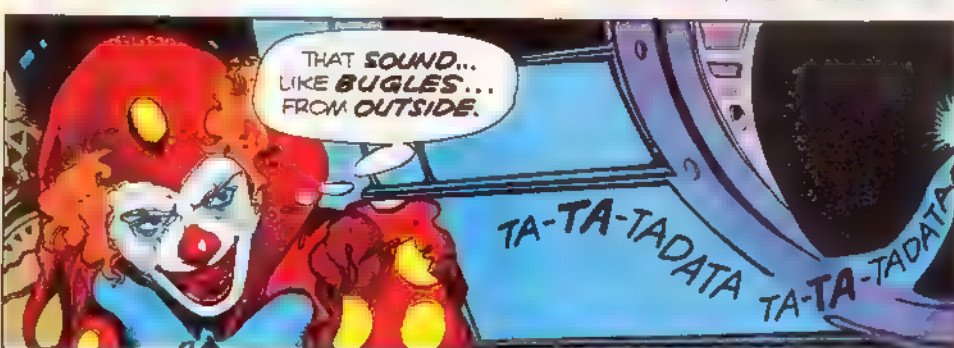
MAYBE I CAN **CONFUSE 'EM** BY LIFTING THE **BACK FLAP** AND **ESCAPING!**

BUT **FATE** HAS A GIGGLE OR SO UP ITS TENT-FLAP FOR OUR FUGITIVE FOOL FROM THE VAST GALACTIC DUST **CLUSTER...**



THE **SPACESHIP** AGAIN! THE MISERABLE FIENDS ARE **TOYING** WITH ME... PROBABLY **MONITORING** ME RIGHT **NOW** AND HAVING A GOOD **LAUGH** ABOUT IT TO **BOOT!**

FRANTIC HANDS OH SO FUMBLY-SLAP THE FLAP BACK ON THE ANGRY **SCALPERS** .



THAT **SOUND...** LIKE **BUGLES...** FROM **OUTSIDE.**

TA-TA-TADATA TA-TA-TADATA



IT IS BUGLES!
THEY'RE SENDING
THE CAVALRY
AFTER ME NOW!



THEY LL BE
HERE *SOON*! GOT
TO GET AWAY FROM
THEM .. FROM THIS
INFANTILE
INSANITY!

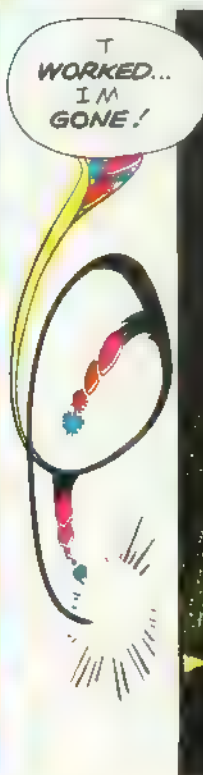


THIS MATTER
TRANSMITTER
TELEPORTATION
MOLECULAR
SCRAMBLER
TRANSPORTER
SHUTTLE...

...IS
MY ONLY
HOPE!



NO TIME TO SET A
DESTINATION! JUST
HAVE TO FADE OUT
AND SEE WHERE I'M
TRANSPORTED!



I
WORKED...
I'M
GONE!



I'M FADING
BACK IN! BUT
WHERE
AM I?

THE CLOWN S **DOWN** ..IN A DANK-DARK, CREEPY-CRAWLY,
D SMAL - DREARY **CASTLE**...

OH NO... NOT
THIS ONE AGAIN!
I'VE BEEN IN THIS
ONE **SO MANY**
TIMES!

LISTEN TO THE CREAKITY-CRUSTED CASKET CRACK OPEN
FROM **WITHIN**...

NOW HE'S
GOING TO POP UP.
DRAMATICALLY...
RIGHT ON **CUE** ..
AND SAY--

KREEEEEEEEK-K-K-K...

GOOD
EVE-EN-INGGG...

LISTEN, VAMPIRE,
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT
TO **GET ME**... JUST
LIKE ALL THE REST!
BUT **WAKE UP** AND
LISTEN TO ME!

THEY'RE
WATCHING US!
CAN'T YOU **FEEL** THEIR
EYES ON YOU EVEN
NOW? THEY **MADE**
YOU A **VAMPIRE**!

WE WERE **ALL**
BORN IN 1947, MY
DEAR CLOWN. WE'VE
ALL UNDERGONE
RATINGS, AND HAVE
BEEN ASSIGNED TO
OUR INDIVIDUAL,
SPECIALIZED
ROLES...!

YOU ARE
PARANOID...
SUFFERING FROM AN
ACUTE **PERSECUTION**
COMPLEX. AND NOW
I SHALL **JUSTIFY**
THAT COMPLEX!

I WANT
YOUR **BLOOD**
BECAUSE THE
BLOOD IS THE
LIFE ..

...AND
BECAUSE
I AM
THIRSTY!

YOU, YOU
HAVE **NO MIND**
OF YOUR **OWN**. YOU'RE
A **PARROT**, LIKE ALL THE
OTHERS... SPEAKING
LINES **THEY WANT**
YOU TO SPEAK...!

YOU WANT
MY **BLOOD**
BECAUSE I'M
IMMORTAL...!

BUT DON'T YOU
SEE THAT OUR LIFE
IS JUST A **STAGE**...
AND IT'S **WRITTEN**
THAT YOU WANT MY
BLOOD, P?

HELTHER-SKELTER, HECTIC LEGS
JOGGLE-BOG THE CLOWN E DOWN
THE STONE STAIRWELL! DRAC-
FLAK HARD TO HACK?



NO USE
TRYING TO **REASON**
WITH HIM! HE'S
BRAINWASHED LIKE
ALL THE REST!

GOT TO
RUN FOR MY
LIFE...!

NO! IT CAN'T BE
CURTAINS FOR
ME!

I DIDN'T **DO**
IT! I'M **INNOCENT**!
THE MAN WITH THE
HOOK... IN
CASABLANCA--!



THEN THE GREAT VELVETY
CURTAINS START TO **PART**!
AND THE FOOLISH CLOWN
REALIZES THAT HIS **TIME** HAS
RUN **OUT**! HE HAS RUN AND
RUN AND **RERUN**... AND NOW
ALL HIS OPTIONS ARE
CANCELLED..!



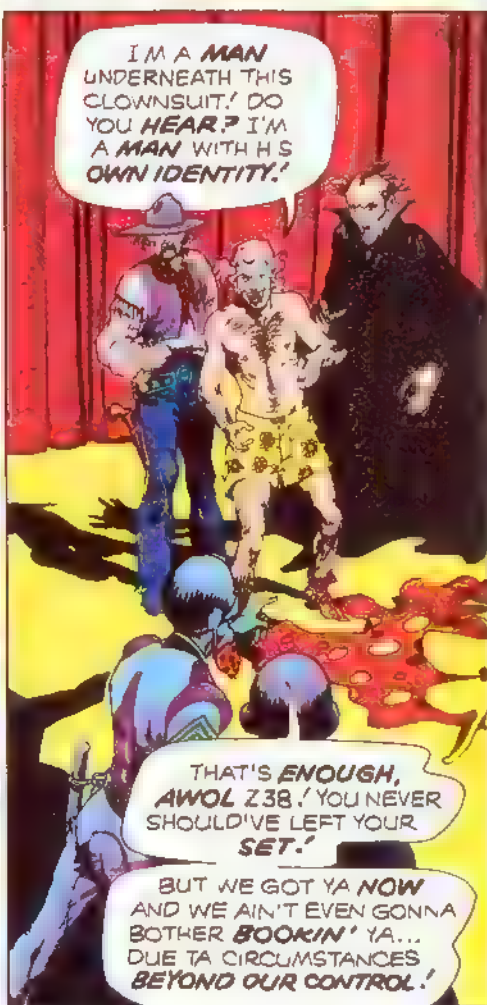
TRAPPED
BETWEEN THE
SHADOWS IN
FRONT OF ME AND
THE **VAMPIRE**
BEHIND ME!

YOU'VE FLED
ACROSS THE VAST
WASTELAND LONG
ENOUGH, VARMINT!
YORE SHOW'S
OVER, CLOWN!



BUT I'M
NOT A CLOWN.
NOT REALLY!

I'M A **MAN**
UNDERNEATH THIS
CLOWSUIT! DO
YOU **HEAR**? I'M
A **MAN** WITH HIS
OWN **IDENTITY**!



THAT'S **ENOUGH**,
AWOL Z38! YOU NEVER
SHOULD'VE LEFT YOUR
SET!

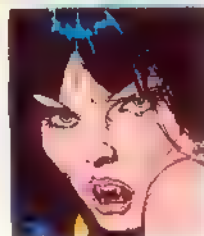
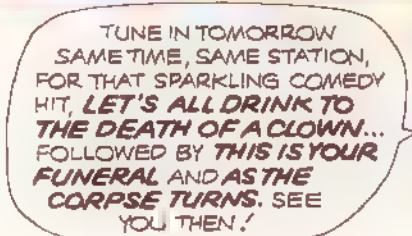
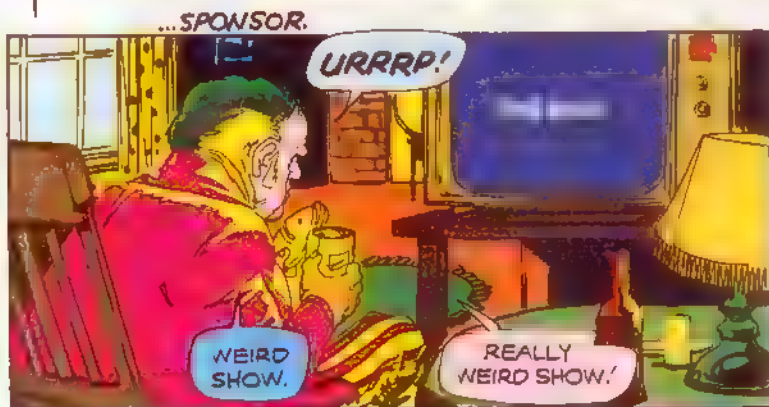
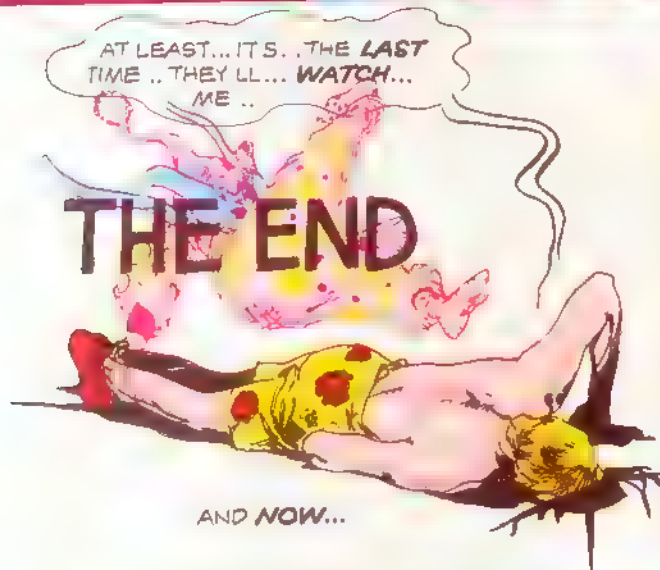
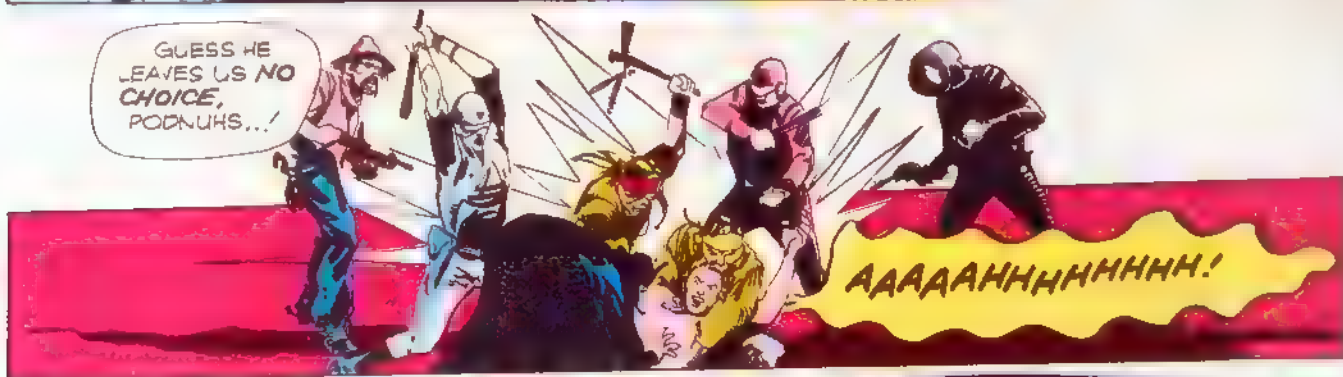
BUT WE GOT YA **NOW**
AND WE AIN'T EVEN GONNA
BOTHR **BOOKIN'** YA...
DUE TA CIRCUMSTANCES
BEYOND OUR CONTROL!

I'M A **MAN**,
I TELL YOU! THE
CLOWN IS JUST
GREASEPAINT... AND
I **REFUSE** TO WEAR
IT ANYMORE!

I WON'T
MASQUERADE AS
AN **IDIOT** MOUTHING
INANE PHRASES FOR
THE AMUSEMENT OF
CRETINS WHO CAN'T
THINK FOR
THEMSELVES!



UGH! HEAP
BIG BERSERKER
THIS ONE... **DISRUPTING**
PROGRAMMING BEST
SUITED TO **MASSSES**!



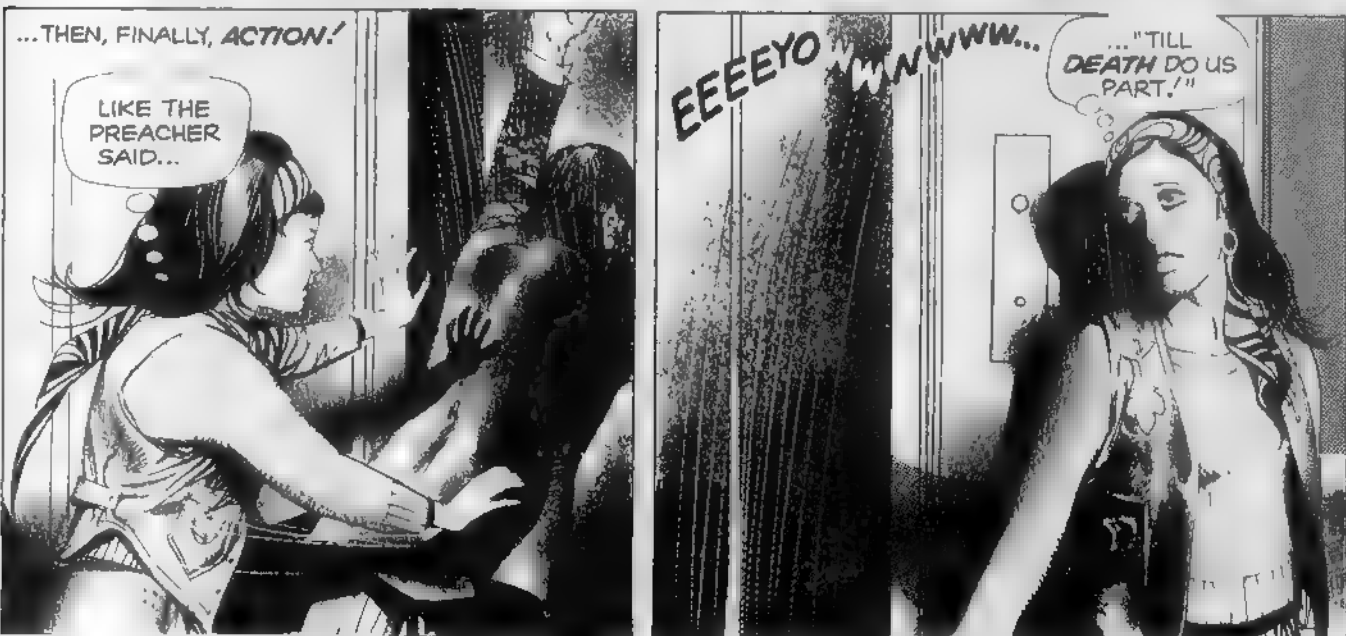
PROLOGUE



IF ONLY HE COULD SEE WHAT WAS NOW OCCURRING BEHIND HIS BACK! PUZZLEMENT...

...CHANGING TO CRAFTINESS...

...AND JUST A STEP AWAY LIES DEVIOUSNESS...



RECURRENCE!



LIFE IS A SERIES OF *CONNECTED* AND *SIMILAR* EVENTS... AN *INSANE CYCLE*... LIKE A LEFT REAR TIRE SPINNING WILDLY, OUT OF CONTROL! HIS SCREAM FADING, REPLACED BY ANOTHER SCREAM... YOUR SCREAM, DOROTHY CRAWTREE! A BELLOWING, *PIERCING* SCREAM, GROWING, BECOMING AN OMINOUS *SHRIEK*! YES, NOW IT IS YOU WHO FALLS... *ENDLESSLY*...

THE SCREAM CONTINUES, BUT THE PICTURE *CHANGES*... CHANGES TO A WOMAN IN BED... SITTING UP QUICKLY...



IT WAS THE *DREAM*... AGAIN!

OF COURSE, IT WAS A *DREAM*!

BUT... WHY DO I KEEP HAVING THAT *SAME* DREAM *AGAIN* AND *AGAIN* AND *AGAIN*??



THE DREAM... IT'S ALWAYS THE **SAME**. IT BEGINS WITH YOU STANDING, PUZZLED, IN THE MIDST OF A WIDE OPEN FIELD.

THEN, **HE** APPEARS! THAT GNARLED, TWISTED LITTLE **MAN...** HEADING **TOWARD** YOU!



YOU WANT TO **RUN**, BUT YOU **CANNOT**. THIS MAN, THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR **DESTRUCTION...** YOU CAN ALMOST **FEEL** HIS THOUGHTS... PITCHFORKS, ANVILS... WILD INSANE, SENSELESSLY **VIOLENT** THOUGHTS!

HIS EXPRESSION IS CRAFTY, DEVIOUS... THEN, FINALLY, HE **SPEAKS...**



NOW, M'LADY, YOU SHALL **PAY** FOR **KILLING** YOUR HUSBAND!

BUT WHO ARE YOU? HOW...

HE **PUSHES** YOU... AND SUDDENLY, THERE IS A PRECIPICE BEHIND YOU. IT WASN'T THERE BEFORE. BUT THAT'S HOW IT IS IN **DREAMS**!





'HERE WAS A TIME **AFTER** THE MURDER... A TIME **BEFORE** YOU BEGAN HAVING **DREAMS**! REMEMBER? FIRST, YOU LISTENED TO YOUR HUSBAND'S SCREAM FADE... THEN SMILED AS YOU HEARD HIM **HIT BOTTOM**!'



YOU STOOD THERE, BEFORE THE ELEVATOR SHAFT, FOR JUST A FEW MOMENTS, SAVORING YOUR **SUCCESS**. THEN, YOU WENT INTO YOUR **ACT**.'



YOU PUT ON A **GOOD** ACT, DIDN'T YOU? THE **GRIEVING WIDOW**.' BUT WHEN YOU WERE ALONE WITH YOUR \$ **10,000 CHECK**...



YES, EVERYTHING HAD WORKED OUT **PERFECTLY**... UNTIL, TWO WEEKS LATER, WHEN THE **DREAMS BEGAN**.' THE UGLY INSANE DWARF CONTINUALLY **PUNNING** YOU OVER THE CLIFF-SIDE...



A SCREAM... FADES INTO A HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLE AS THE DREAM DISSOLVES...



A WOMAN HAUNTED BY **MEMORIES** OF HAPPIER TIMES... OF A YOUNG MAN WHO HAD PLANS... **BIG** PLANS...

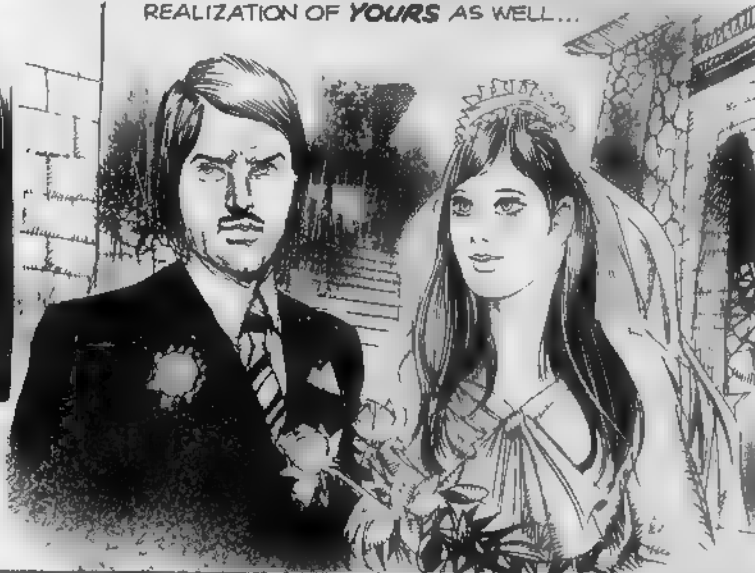


COFFEE! ANYTHING TO KEEP YOU **AWAKE**... KEEP YOU FROM FALLING ASLEEP AND HAVING THAT **DREAM** AGAIN...



A WOMAN... A **TRAGEDY**... FORCING HER EYES TO REMAIN OPEN...

THE **WEDDING!** TWO PEOPLE JOINED INTO **ONE!** THE REALIZATION OF **HIS** PLANS WOULD BE THE REALIZATION OF **YOURS** AS WELL...



BUT THE MAN **CHANGED**... WATCHED T.V., DRANK BEER, AND ACCEPTED HIS LOT IN LIFE...

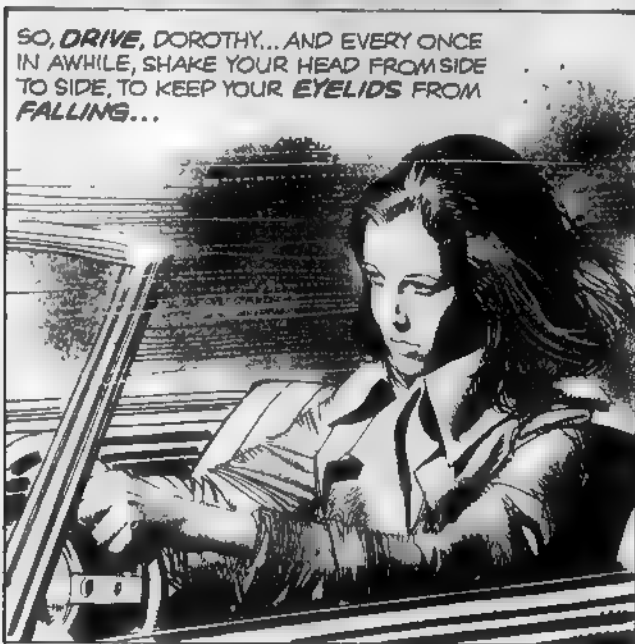
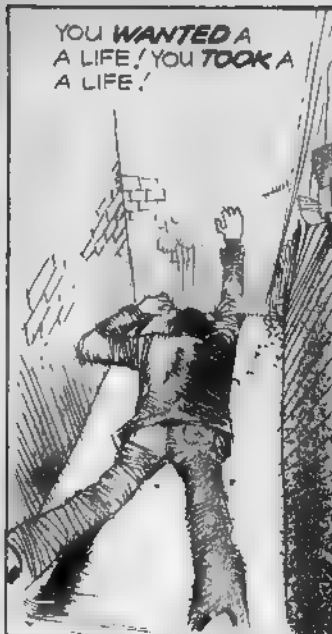


I HATE HIM!

I HATE HIM!!

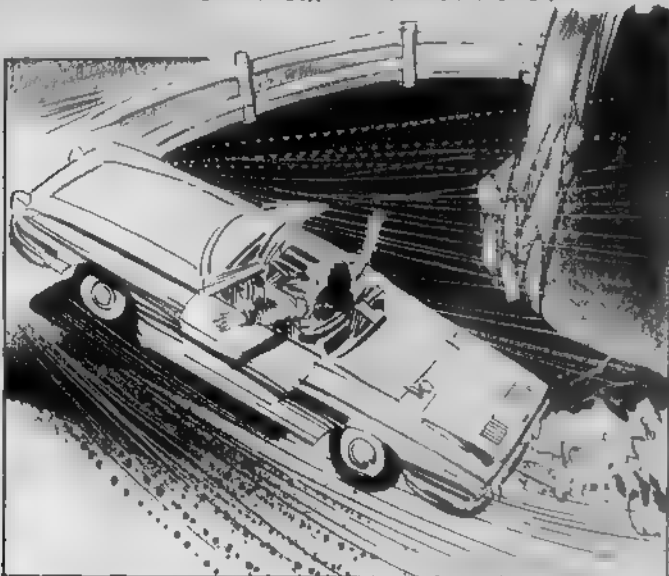


A **LIFE**... THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED! NOT THIS SIMPLE ACCEPTANCE OF **NOTHING**... BUT A LIFE OF **EXCITEMENT!**



AND, AS YOU **STARE** IN ABJECT **AWE**, YOU UNAVOIDABLY, ACCIDENTALLY STEER YOUR CAR OVER INTO THE SHOULDER OF THE ROAD... YOUR LEFT REAR TIRE CATCHING IN THE MUD... SPINNING **WILDLY OUT OF CONTROL**...

PANICKING... YOU TRY TO **REGAIN** CONTROL OF THE CAR... BUT **NO**... IT CAN'T BE DONE!



RISING... FLYING... ARMS FLAILING FOR SOMETHING TO HOLD ONTO... BUT NOTHING... **NOTHING**...



FALLING... FALLING TOWARD JAGGED, SHARP,
ROCK OUTCROPPINGS...



AND WHEN YOU **SEE**... YOU ARE
SHOCKED! IT IS **HE** OF COURSE,
IT IS **HE**...



A **HUNCHBACK**, WALKING FOR NO
SPECIFIC REASON, HEADING TOWARD
NO SPECIFIC DESTINATION... HIS
MIND FILLED WITH PITCHFORKS...
ANVILS... WILD, INSANE, SENSELESS-
LY **VIOLENT** THOUGHTS... HIS MIND
AS **BENT** AS HIS BODY...



... HE HASN'T EVEN **HEARD** YOUR
SCREAM! HE KNOWS **NOTHING**
OF YOUR **DEMISE!** HE HAS NO
WAY OF KNOWING THAT SOME
CURIOUS FATE HAD CHOSEN **HIM**
AS THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR
DESTRUCTION...



LIFE IS A SERIES OF **CONNECTED** AND **SIMILAR**
EVENTS... A **CYCLE**... A WILDLY SPINNING **CYCLE**...!



END



... SIX DOLLARS AND FORTY CENTS... ~~THAT'S~~ NOT MUCH! NOT EVEN FOR ~~THESE~~ HARD TIMES ..



... JACK KNOWS ME WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW I'D PAY HIM BACK .. ONCE I CAN AFFORD IT ..



...IT'S NOT LIKE I BORROW A LOT ~~GOD!~~ I GOT MY PRIDE... AND I'VE ALWAYS PAID MY DEBTS...



.. I'VE .. ALWAYS PAID MY DEBTS.



.. NO, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE MONEY... WE'VE BEEN TOO CLOSE... KNOW EACH OTHER TOO WELL...



...THERE'S ONLY ONE THING ~~ELSE~~... JUST ONE THING ELSE TO MAKE A MAN GUN DOWN HIS BEST FRIEND...

.ANNETTE.



GOLD CLUTS



...ANNETTE... POOR ANNETTE... BET SHE'S WORRIED SICK... **HUNGRY**, TOO... IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS... WOULD'VE BEEN HOME LONG SINCE IF THE SNOW HADN'T STARTED...



... ANNETTE... ALL ALONE .. SCARED... STARVING .. AND ME OUT IN A BLIZZARD... DYING... CARRYING THIS CARCASS TO A HOME I'LL NEVER REACH AND A WIFE I'LL NEVER SEE AGAIN...



I'M CRYING NOW...
DAMMIT! THE TEARS
ARE FREEZING ON MY
CHEEKS... I'LL
NEVER LET YOU
STARVE...



... "I'LL NEVER LET YOU STARVE..." THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HER WHEN I LEFT... "I'LL NEVER LET YOU STARVE..."

AND JACK DEAR OLD JACK... HE'S ALWAYS HAD HIS EYE ON ANNETTE... BUT TO THINK HE'D DO... THIS...



ANNETTE.

JACK: NO!
THE SNOW...
ON THE ROOF!

... WHEN TIMES WERE GOOD, WE THREE WOULD LAUGH AND TALK OVER GLASSES OF WINE ... TALK ABOUT OUR PLANS...



WHUMP!

... BUT OUR PLANS WERE MADE TO WAIT... THIS DAMNED DEPRESSION ... THESE HARD TIMES THAT FORCE MEN TO KILL... FOR FOOD...



... FOR FOOD...

GREENS AND FRUIT JUST CAN'T BE HAD AT ANY PRICE ... AND MEAT...



JACK! WHA-
WHAT ARE YOU - ?
OH, NO! HELP!

... MEAT CAN BE GOTTEN JUST ONE WAY...

HELP ME!



... YOU... YOU... HAVE TO... HUNT



... IT'S FUNNY... IN A WAY... I'M DYING... BLEEDING TO DEATH WITH A DEER FROZEN TO MY SHOULDERS... AND ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS ... MEAT...



...MEAT...LOTS OF IT...RED,
RAW...FRESH...I'VE GOT
ENOUGH MEAT HERE TO LAST
THE WINTER...IF IT'S
PROPERLY PREPARED...

...FIRST, I'LL CUT OPEN
THE BELLY...TAKE OUT
THE INNARDS...

AAAGGHH! OH,
LORD! MY GUTS!

...THEN, SKIN THE CARCASS...
STRIP IT FROM TOP TO
BOTTOM...

NO! OH, GOD!!
THE PAIN!

...THEN, I'LL QUARTER IT...

AAAGGHH!
MY
LEGS!

... AND FINALLY PUT
ALL THE FRESH, RED
MEAT IN THE SNOW
TO FREEZE...

DEAR GOD.

... AND IT'S DONE ... THE SNOW
WILL FALL ... THE WIND WILL
CARRY IT ALL AROUND TILL IT
COVERS EVERYTHING LIKE A
BLANKET...

... THE WORLD OUTSIDE
WILL LIE SMOTHERED
AND FROZEN TILL
SPRING...

... BUT YOU'LL BE SAFE
AND WARM AND HUNGRY
NO MORE, ANNETTE... "I'LL
NEVER LET YOU STARVE..."

ASTONISHING! BRAND-NEW VINYL WHOLE-HEAD HORROR MASKS!

NEW! FROM HOLLYWOOD! VINYL MOVIE MONSTER MASKS!

They fit the whole head. Sturdy flexible but unbreakable all-weather vinyl masks. Reasonably priced so you can buy 'em ALL! All great!



"THIN" FRANKENSTEIN! For the narrow-minded, this long-face Frank's a must! **"THIN" FRANKENSTEIN \$8.95 #2255**



THE SKULL! Immense, oversized skull! Classic for the Calcium Clique! And quite cracked! **#2556 THE SKULL \$8.95**



VERMILLION SKULL! A fearful fiery Roasting Red! The hard-headed hit of Hades! **#2557 VERMILLION SKULL \$8.95**



WOLFMAN! Really new-FANGLED way to break friends & influential people! **#2558 WOLFMAN \$8.95**



METALUNA ROBOT! A metal man, shining silvery. It could be YOU! **#2559 METALUNA ROBOT \$8.95**



"WIDE" FRANKENSTEIN! The square-headed monster buff will DEMAND this **#2560 "WIDE" FRANKENSTEIN \$8.95**



THE PHANTOM! His skull-like face and flaring nostrils could make a statue sweat blood! **#2561 THE PHANTOM \$8.95**



THE MUMMY! He leers at you from the AGES, this ghost-propelled corpse of Tainted Tannis! **#2562 THE MUMMY \$8.95**



THE HUNCHBACK! Deformed creature cursed to slink through countless catacombs! **#2563 THE HUNCHBACK \$8.95**

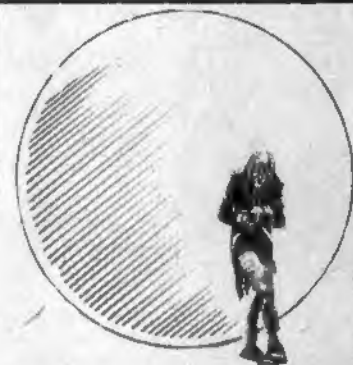


MR. HYDE! The first and last (choking) word in beast-men! The saw-toothed Fiend of Fiends! **#2564 MR. HYDE \$8.95**



TOR JOHNSON! One of the greatest character actors of all time! Now YOU can be him! Perfect! **#2565 TOR JOHNSON \$8.95**

OWN YOUR OWN PLANET!



GIANT 10 FT. BALLOON

Giant balloon blows up to gargantuan ten feet! American Air Force Pilots will well remember these giant weather balloons—same kind used by US Air Force! Now available to YOU by a special purchase by Captain Company! Genuine Neoprene rubber, too! A sure-fire way of attracting crowds! **#2620 10-FT. BALLOON \$2.98!**



SPOOK SHOW

This easy-to-read booklet shows how you can create **REALISTIC SUPERNATURAL TRICKS** in your own living-room without special props. Turn out the lights and work these chiller-diller stunts on family & friends. Ten great tricks. Be another bloomin' Harry Houdini! **#2630 SPOOK SHOW \$1.00!**

MONSTER FLY

Developed especially for **FAMOUS MONSTERS MAGAZINE** readers. Realistic, 8" size; with transparent wings, blazing red eyes, flexible black legs, green body, black veins. Suction cup in nose lets **MONSTER FLY** stick to anything, any time, anywhere. Want to create a Monster Sensation. Get your monster fly right away. It's the sickest thing ever! **#2603 MONSTER FLY \$1.98!**



TURN ON WITH THIS

BLACK LIGHT BULB!

Turn your room to a psychedelic den with this series **Black Light Bulb!** 75-watt bulb filled with special gasses that activate fluorescent color! **#2632 BLACK LIGHT BULB \$2.95**

HUMAN SKELETON!

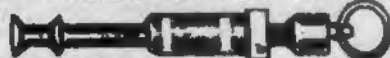
IS THAT WHAT WE LOOK LIKE INSIDE???

YOU CAN'T walk around in your bones. Next best thing is this **HUMAN SKELETON**. A foot-high model, scaled from a 6' man; made of **BONE WHITE** flexible Supertan. No gluing, no painting; parts snap together. Free Anatomy Chart included. **#2416 HUMAN SKELETON KIT \$1.25!**



SILENT DOG WHISTLE!

MYSTERIOUS... ONLY DOGS CAN HEAR IT!



AMAZE EVERYONE (especially Fido) when you tweet on this **SILENT DOG WHISTLE**. Arcan Super-Sonic features make it **SILENT** to HUMAN ears, but your dog will respond, instantly. **#2608 SILENT DOG WHISTLE \$1.00!**



HUMAN SKULL!

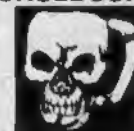
You'll scare the life out o' friends & family with your own, warm lovable skull. Looks bone-dry & deathly pale. Made of tough, unbreakable plastic, ashy white in color. Looks like real thing! Kneat trophy! **#2601 HUMAN SKULL \$1.25**

MONSTER FOOT!



PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD wearing a grotesque **MONSTER FOOT!** Create a riot shuffling along, monster-style. Giant size half-foot model, made of hand-painted, long-lasting latex rubber. Fits either foot. Look strange! Price is for one foot, only. For a pair, you'll have to order 2! **#2516 MONSTER FOOT \$1.50**

GRUESOME SKULL CUP!



THIS MAY KILL your thirst, but think of the fun as you rile laughing, drinking from your **SKULL CUP**. Perfect copy of a real skull. Made of fine ceramic, with bone-like handle. Order several and have a good time with your pals. It's long-lasting and sure to last a long time, thoroughly washable, takes all kinds of roughhousing. **#2602 \$2.00!**

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient **RUSH ORDER FORM**.

THERE'S EXCITEMENT IN THIS MONTH'S
WARREN MAGAZINES!



CREEPY



VAMPIRELLA

**ON
SALE
NOW**



EERIE



SPIRIT